

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1                   1.       (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for deciding  
2 whether to make an item in-house or to buy the item from outside suppliers, the method  
3 comprising:  
4                   launching a workflow from a first interface associated with a computer to enforce  
5 a series of steps for arriving at the make or buy decision; and  
6                   displaying information on a second interface associated with a computer, the  
7 information indicative of the make or buy decision;[[,]]  
8                   wherein the workflow series of steps includes[[ing]]:  
9                   forwarding, using at least one computer in a set of one or more computers,  
10 information that enables one or more workflow participants in a marketing department of an  
11 enterprise to generate[[ing]] a market specification describing the item to be made in-house or  
12 purchased from outside suppliers;  
13                   receiving, at at least one computer in the set of one or more computers, the  
14 market specification from the one or more workflow participants in the marketing department;  
15                   receiving, at at least one computer in the set of one or more computers,  
16 information estimating a market volume for the item described in the market specification from  
17 the one or more workflow participants in the marketing department;  
18                   forwarding, using at least one computer in the set of one or more  
19 computers, information that enables one or more workflow participants in a planning department  
20 of the enterprise to derive[[ing]] a materials requirement plan from the generated market  
21 specification and the estimated market volume;  
22                   receiving, at at least one computer in the set of computers, the material  
23 equipment plan from the one or more workflow participants in the planning department;

24                   forwarding, using at least one computer in the set of one or more  
25 computers, information that enables one or more workflow participants in an engineering  
26 department of the enterprise to develop[[ing]] an engineering specification defining the item  
27 from the generated market specification;  
28                   receiving, at at least one computer in the set of computers, the engineering  
29 specification from the one or more workflow participants in the engineering department;  
30                   receiving, at at least one computer in the set of computers, information  
31 establishing a purchase price to buy the item from one or more workflow participants in a  
32 purchasing department of the enterprise;  
33                   receiving, at at least one computer in the set of computers, information  
34 estimating a unit cost for producing the item in-house from one or more workflow participants in  
35 a costing department of the enterprise; and  
36                   forwarding, using at least one computer in the set of computers,  
37 information that enables the one or more workflow participants in the costing department to  
38 determine[[ing]] a unit opportunity cost from the established purchase price to buy the item and  
39 the estimated in-house unit cost;  
40                   forwarding, using at least one computer in the set of computers,  
41 information that enables the one or more workflow participants in the costing department to  
42 extend[[ing]] the unit opportunity cost by the quantity of the item specified in the material  
43 requirement plan to determine a gross opportunity cost;  
44                   receiving, at at least one computer in the set of computers, information  
45 estimating a cost of acquiring a production capacity to produce the item in-house from the one or  
46 more workflow participants in a costing department of the enterprise;[[,]] and  
47                   receiving, at at least one computer in the set of computers, information  
48 determining to make the item in-house from the one or more workflow participants in a costing  
49 department of the enterprise if a net present value of the gross opportunity cost is more than the  
50 estimate cost of acquiring the production capacity, otherwise receiving, at the at least one  
51 computer in the set of computers, information determining to buy the item from at least one of  
52 the outside suppliers.

1                   2.       (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1,  
2 wherein receiving, at the at least one computer in the set of computers, the materials requirement  
3 plan from the one or more workflow participants in the planning department includes receiving a  
4 bill of materials detailing components and sub-components needed to build the item, current  
5 inventory of the components and sub-components and an amount of the components and sub-  
6 components that must be purchased, phased over time.

1                   3.       (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1,  
2 wherein receiving, at the at least one computer in the set of computers, the engineering  
3 specification from the one or more workflow participants in the engineering department includes  
4 receiving a technical description of the item and of any tooling, plant layout and materials  
5 needed to produce the item.

1                   4.       (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1,  
2 wherein receiving, at the at least one computer in the set of computers, the information  
3 establishing a purchase price to buy the item from one or more workflow participants in the  
4 purchasing department ~~step~~ includes at least one ~~step~~ of:  
5                   receiving information indicating ~~determining~~ whether an item matching or  
6 substantially matching requirements defined in the engineering specification is available from  
7 the outside suppliers; and  
8                   receiving information placing the item defined in the engineering specification up  
9 for bid by the ~~external~~ outside suppliers.

1                   5.       (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1,  
2 wherein the workflow further includes~~[[ing]] a step of carrying out~~ receiving, at at least one  
3 computer in the set of one or more computers, information indicative of a financial justification  
4 calculation, the financial justification calculation being a difference between the net present  
5 value of the gross opportunity costs and the estimated cost of acquiring the production capacity  
6 to produce the item in-house.

1                   6.       (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1,  
2 wherein based on a determination ~~when it is determined~~ to make the item in-house, the workflow  
3 further including carrying out a step of receiving at at least one computer in the set of one or  
4 more computers, information scoring the gross opportunity cost according to how aligned  
5 making the item in-house is with non-financial criteria.

1                   7.       (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1,  
2 wherein ~~the step of receiving~~, at the at least one computer in the set of computers, information  
3 estimating the unit cost for producing the item in-house includes receiving at least one of a cost  
4 of a plant and equipment needed to manufacture the item, a factory layout cost, and a building  
5 cost.

1                   8.       (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 6, wherein the  
2 non-financial criteria include process technology advantage, tooling technology advantage,  
3 volume and intellectual property protection.

1                   9.       (Currently amended) A machine-readable storage medium having data  
2 stored thereon representing sequences of instructions ~~which, when executed~~ executable by a  
3 computer[[,]] ~~causes the computer to carry out a method~~ for deciding whether to make an item  
4 in-house or to buy the item from outside suppliers, the machine-readable storage medium  
5 comprising ~~by carrying out steps of~~:  
6                   instructions for launching a workflow ~~to enforce a series of steps~~ for arriving at  
7 the make or buy decision; and  
8                   instructions for generating information indicative of the make or buy decision[[,]]  
9                   wherein the workflow series of steps includes[[ing]]:  
10                   instructions for forwarding information that enables one or more workflow  
11 participants in a marketing department of an enterprise to generate[[ing]] a market specification  
12 describing the item to be made in-house or purchased from outside suppliers;

13 instructions for receiving the market specification from the one or more  
14 workflow participants in the marketing department;

15 instructions for receiving information estimating a market volume for the  
16 item described in the market specification from the one or more workflow participants in the  
17 marketing department;

18 instructions for forwarding information that enables one or more workflow  
19 participants in a planning department of the enterprise to derive[[ing]] a materials requirement  
20 plan from the generated market specification and the estimated market volume;

21 instructions for receiving the material equipment plan from the one or  
22 more workflow participants in the planning department;

23 instructions for forwarding information that enables one or more workflow  
24 participants in an engineering department of the enterprise to develop[[ing]] an engineering  
25 specification defining the item from the generated market specification;

26 instructions for receiving the engineering specification from the one or  
27 more workflow participants in the engineering department;

28 instructions for receiving information establishing a purchase price to buy  
29 the item from one or more workflow participants in a purchasing department of the enterprise;

30 instructions for receiving information estimating a unit cost for producing  
31 the item in-house from one or more workflow participants in a costing department of the  
32 enterprise; and

33 instructions for forwarding information that enables the one or more  
34 workflow participants in the costing department to determine[[ing]] a unit opportunity cost from  
35 the established purchase price to buy the item and the estimated in-house unit cost;

36 instructions for forwarding information that enables the one or more  
37 workflow participants in the costing department to extend[[ing]] the unit opportunity cost by the  
38 quantity of the item specified in the material requirement plan to determine a gross opportunity  
39 cost;

40                    instructions for receiving information estimating a cost of acquiring a  
41 production capacity to produce the item in-house from the one or more workflow participants in  
42 a costing department of the enterprise;[[,]] and

43                    instructions for receiving information determining to make the item in-  
44 house from the one or more workflow participants in a costing department of the enterprise if a  
45 net present value of the gross opportunity cost is more than the estimate cost of acquiring the  
46 production capacity, otherwise receiving, at the at least one computer in the set of computers,  
47 information determining to buy the item from at least one of the outside suppliers.

1                    10.     (Currently amended) A computer system for making a decision whether  
2 to make an item in-house or to buy the item from outside suppliers, comprising:

3                    a processor;  
4                    at least one data storage device coupled to the processor;  
5                    a plurality of processes spawned by said at least one processor, the processes  
6 including processing logic for:

7                    launching a workflow ~~to enforce a series of steps~~ for arriving at the make  
8 or buy decision; and

9                    generating information indicative of the make or buy decision;[[,]]

10                   wherein the workflow ~~series of steps~~ includes[[ing]]:

11                   forwarding information that enables one or more workflow participants in  
12 a marketing department of an enterprise to generate[[ing]] a market specification describing the  
13 item to be made in-house or purchased from outside suppliers;

14                   receiving the market specification from the one or more workflow  
15 participants in the marketing department;

16                   receiving information estimating a market volume for the item described  
17 in the market specification from the one or more workflow participants in the marketing  
18 department;

19                   forwarding information that enables one or more workflow participants in  
20 a planning department of the enterprise to derive[[ing]] a materials requirement plan from the  
21 generated market specification and the estimated market volume;  
22                   receiving the material equipment plan from the one or more workflow  
23 participants in the planning department;  
24                   forwarding information that enables one or more workflow participants in  
25 an engineering department of the enterprise to develop[[ing]] an engineering specification  
26 defining the item from the generated market specification;  
27                   receiving the engineering specification from the one or more workflow  
28 participants in the engineering department;  
29                   receiving information establishing a purchase price to buy the item;  
30                   receiving information estimating a unit cost for producing the item in-  
31 house from one or more workflow participants in a costing department of the enterprise; and  
32                   forwarding information that enables the one or more workflow  
33 participants in the costing department to determine[[ing]] a unit opportunity cost from the  
34 established purchase price to buy the item and the estimated in-house unit cost;  
35                   forwarding information that enables the one or more workflow  
36 participants in the costing department to extend[[ing]] the unit opportunity cost by the quantity of  
37 the item specified in the material requirement plan to determine a gross opportunity cost;  
38                   receiving information estimating a cost of acquiring a production capacity  
39 to produce the item in-house from the one or more workflow participants in a costing department  
40 of the enterprise;[[.]] and  
41                   receiving information determining to make the item in-house from the one  
42 or more workflow participants in a costing department of the enterprise if a net present value of  
43 the gross opportunity cost is more than the estimate cost of acquiring the production capacity,  
44 otherwise receiving, at the at least one computer in the set of computers, information determining  
45 to buy the item from at least one of the outside suppliers.

11.-15 (Canceled).

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